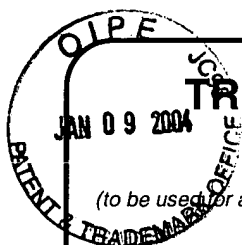


JAN 12 2004

HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	10/682,446
		Filing Date	October 9, 2003
		First Named Inventor	S. Benedetti et al.
		Group Art Unit	not yet assigned
		Examiner Name	not yet assigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	0275M-000802

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

☐ Fee Transmittal Form ☐ Fee Attached ☐ Amendment / Response ☐ After Final ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s) ☐ Extension of Time Request ☐ Express Abandonment Request ☒ Information Disclosure Statement ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) ☐ Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	☐ Assignment Papers (for an Application) ☐ Drawing(s) ☐ Licensing-related Papers ☐ Petition ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address ☐ Terminal Disclaimer ☐ Request for Refund ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) ____	☐ After Allowance Communication to Group ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences ☐ Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) ☐ Proprietary Information ☐ Status Letter ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form 1449; and return postcard.
Remarks The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2550. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

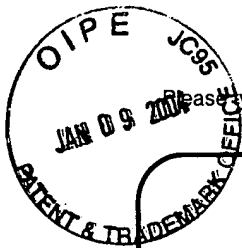
Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Monte L. Falcoff Michael J. Lang	Reg. No. 37,617 51,120
Signature			
Date	January 9, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

Typed or printed name	Monte L. Falcoff	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 075 759 US
Signature		Date	January 9, 2004

EV 406 075 759 US

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

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	Filing Date	October 9, 2003
	First Named Inventor	S. Benedetti et al.
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☐ Fee Transmittal Form ☐ Fee Attached ☐ Amendment / Response ☐ After Final ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s) ☐ Extension of Time Request ☐ Express Abandonment Request ☒ Information Disclosure Statement ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) ☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	☐ Assignment Papers (for an Application) ☐ Drawing(s) ☐ Licensing-related Papers ☐ Petition ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address ☐ Terminal Disclaimer ☐ Request for Refund ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____	☐ After Allowance Communication to Group ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences ☐ Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) ☐ Proprietary Information ☐ Status Letter ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form 1449; and return postcard.
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Monte L. Falcoff Michael J. Lang	Reg. No. 37,617 51,120
Signature			
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Typed or printed name	Monte L. Falcoff	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 075 759 US
Signature		Date	January 9, 2004



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/682,446
Filing Date: October 9, 2003
Applicant: S. Benedetti et al.
Group Art Unit: not yet assigned
Examiner: not yet assigned
Title: Arcuate-Hinge Fastener
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000802

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. ____ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ____ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. X Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. ____ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. X Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. X A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ____ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
2. ____ English translations are provided:
3. X Other:

The following references appear somewhat more relevant than the others cited herein: 5,851,097 and 4,491,447. Notwithstanding, the Examiner is requested to review all of the cited references and make his/her own relevancy determination.

C. ____ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ____ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. X **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**: (check only one box)

1. ____ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ____ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. X before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. ____ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):** (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ____ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ____ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):**

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ____ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. **CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e):** (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ____ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F. R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ____ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ____ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

____ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ____ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ____ Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2004

By: 
Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617
Michael J. Lang, Reg. No. 51,120

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
MLF/MJL/csd



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL No.
0275M-000802	10/682,446
APPLICANT	
S. Benedetti et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP
October 9, 2003	not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		79,801	7/1868	Adams		
2.		Des. 297,613	9/1988	Yokoyama et al.		
3.		Des. 297,614	9/1988	Yokoyama et al.		
4.		Des. 297,615	9/1988	Nakama		
5.		Des. 378,349	3/1997	Saito et al.		
6.		Des. 380,667	7/1997	Kanamori et al.		
7.		Des. 381,258	7/1997	Saito		
8.		Des. 382,466	8/1997	Hirose		
9.		Des. 382,468	8/1997	Takahashi		
10.		Des. 390,776	2/1998	Ueno		
11.		Des. 456,699	5/2002	Nakanishi		
12.		964,226	7/1910	Farrand		
13.		1,162,266	11/1915	Weiss		
14.		1,269,302	6/1918	Paine et al.		
15.		1,357,821	11/1920	Pierce		
16.		2,897,694	8/1959	Carney		
17.		3,029,486	4/1962	Raymond		
18.		3,550,217	12/1970	Collyer		
19.		3,678,797	7/1972	Seckerson		
20.		3,745,612	7/1973	Seckerson		
21.		3,776,092	12/1973	Seckerson		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 2 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

SERIAL No.

0275M-000802

10/682,446

APPLICANT

S. Benedetti et al.

FILING DATE

GROUP

October 9, 2003

not yet assigned

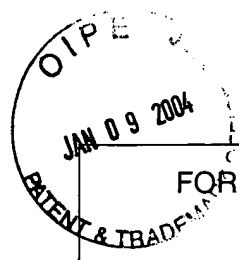
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
22.		4,100,833	7/1978	Nessa		
23.		4,122,583	10/1978	Grittner et al.		
24.		4,312,614	1/1982	Palmer et al.		
25.		4,397,595	8/1983	Smith et al.		
26.		4,415,299	11/1983	Smith et al.		
27.		4,491,447	1/1985	Smith et al.		
28.		4,524,494	6/1985	Sato et al.		
29.		4,629,356	12/1986	Hayashi		
30.		4,674,910	6/1987	Hayashi		
31.		4,781,488	11/1988	Hayashi		
32.		4,987,656	1/1991	Sato		
33.		5,028,187	7/1991	Sato		
34.		5,046,223	9/1991	Kraus		
35.		5,244,324	9/1993	Smith		
36.		5,301,396	4/1994	Benoit		
37.		5,319,839	6/1994	Shimajiri		
38.		5,425,609	6/1995	Smith		
39.		5,509,182	4/96	Nakanishi		
40.		5,509,765	4/1996	Albin		
41.		5,573,362	11/1996	Asami et al.		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 3 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

0275M-000802

SERIAL NO.

10/682,446

APPLICANT

S. Benedetti et al.

FILING DATE

October 9, 2003

GROUP

not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
42.		5,632,581	5/1997	Hasada		
43.		5,689,863	11/1997	Sinozaki		
44.		5,689,863	11/1997	Sinozaki		
45.		5,694,666	12/1997	Hamamoto		
46.		5,704,753	1/1998	Ueno		
47.		5,845,883	12/1998	Meyer		
48.		5,851,097	12/1998	Shereyk et al.		
49.		6,209,178	4/2001	Wiese et al.		
50.		6,305,055	10/2001	Castro		
51.		6,511,273	1/2003	Arisaka		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.